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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES IN SOOCHOW, CHINA

BY MARY A. HOOD, R.N.

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THE hospital and medical school of which this nurse training school is a part were organized twenty-one years ago. The first diploma was given in 1896.

Three years ago I was appointed to work in this hospital, and in 1910 the nurses were divided into two groups,—the older women who had long experience with but little systematic study, and the younger women who were beginning to work on a full nurse training course. Of this latter group there are three, who have finished the first half of the second year's work.

Last fall a new class entered, five in number; three fell by the way-side, and this spring three new probationers have come to join the class. The teaching in this department is done by the superintendent, assisted by Dr. Polk (physician in charge), Dr. Sung, and Miss Dan, a third year medical student. In this practical work these nurses (eleven in number) have had charge of all the patients who have been in our wards and private rooms. The capacity of the hospital is 60 beds. They have taken their turn in clinic and maternity department and have done out-nursing when they could be spared to take it up.

The report for the year shows the total number of patients as 6223. Six hundred and ten of these have been "in-patients" or inmates of our wards. It is hard to make a report of spiritual results in hospital work. We try by literature, social contact, exhortation, and instruction to give each patient something from the Gospel message to take away with her, but it is really only a small per cent. who are sufficiently reached to send them away trusting in Christ and expecting to be His followers. We trust the seeds are sown and prejudices broken down even where results are not in evidence.

The school's hope for each soul is: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, thy soul, thy mind. This is the first and great

commandment. The second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The school's hope for each mind is: "She hath done what she could."

HOW PROBATIONERS ARE INITIATED IN KOREA

(Extracts from a letter by Esther L. Shields, Severance Hospital, Seoul.)

. . . THE (Robb Memorial) calendar is a very inspiring memorial to Mrs. Robb, and a help to those who receive her messages, even now.

On Friday morning, last, we had a little ceremony for five of our Korean young women who had passed their probation period and wore their uniforms for the first time. We met in the church on the compound with a very few friends, and after singing "Faith is the Victory," we had opening prayer by a Korean church officer, and reading by B. C. Kim about the sisters Mary and Martha. Dr. Avison gave a very helpful talk, then Miss Helen Forsyth put before the nurses some ideals and told of the inspiration she had received from Miss Rose Lucas, during her early training, and from Miss Ennis while taking a post-graduate course. Miss Forsyth and I placed the caps on the heads of the nurses who were to receive them, a graduate nurse of a sister training school led in prayer, and we closed the service by singing the "Consecration hymn," after which congratulations were offered in the usual western fashion. The girls did look well, and we hope they may go on and become thoroughly good nurses.

Miss Forsyth is at present living in the hospital—we hope before many years to have a nurses' home—and is studying the Korean language and making use of it as she superintends the work in the hospital.

It still seems to be impossible to have many meetings to which any considerable number of the foreign nurses can come, as they are scattered over the country and are often busy personally in special nursing. I think there are twenty-one graduate nurses in Korea; ten are married, and only one is in regular hospital work, though some of the others are on call. Some day we'll try to get some reports together which will give a better view of the whole work in Korea in nursing lines.